

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SCCT-02 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

DRC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 USSS-00 SY-03 L-03

H-03 AID-20 A-01 OPR-02 NEA-10 /153 W

----- 088643

R 261018Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8833

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 1165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, SZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: A) STATE 048599; B) STATE 020494; C) STATE 019941

1. EMBOFF GAVE MAX NEUENSCHWANDER, CHIEF LEGAL SERVICES, SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE, LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SECURITY PROCEDURES (REFTEL B). EMBOFF EXPLAINED USG DESIRE FOR RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE ON SECURITY MATTERS. NEUENSCHWANDER WELCOMED LIST AND SAID GOS SHARED USG'S INTEREST IN IMPROVING AIR SECURITY. EMBOFF SAID PERSONS PASSING THROUGH ZURICH AND GENEVA AIRPORTS HAD NOTICED NOT ALL RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS WERE BEING FOLLOWED (REFTEL A). NEUENSCHWANDER NOTED WHICH PROCEDURES WERE NOT BEING FOLLOWED AT EACH AIRPORT AND SAID HE WOULD PASS INFORMATION TO FEDERAL POLICE AND TO CANTONAL AUTHORITIES IN ZURICH AND GENEVA.

2. NEUENSCHWANDER EXPLAINED FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ONLY ADVISORY AND COORDINATING ROLE IN AIRPORT SECURITY. AIRPORTS OWNED BY CANTONAL GOVERNMENTS AND CANTONAL POLICE HAVE SOLE

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AUTHORITY IN SECURITY MATTERS. HE WAS NOT SURPRISED ZURICH

SECURITY BETTER THAN GENEVA SINCE ZURICH HAS SPECIALLY TRAINED AIRPORT POLICE IN ADDITION CANTONAL POLICE, WHILE GENEVA USES ONLY REGULAR CANTONAL POLICE. IN BOTH AIRPORTS, HOWEVER, SECURITY FORCES SHORT OF PERSONNEL (SWITZERLAND HAS COUNTRY-WIDE LABOR SHORTAGE) AND THEY NOT ABLE MAINTAIN MAXIMUM SECURITY MEASURES EVERYWHERE IN AIRPORT AT ALL TIMES. CONSEQUENTLY, SOME MEASURES ENFORCED ONLY SOME OF THE TIME ON RANDOM BASIS. FOR SPECIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS (E.G., MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE) ARMY USED TO SUPPLEMENT POLICE. NEUENSCHWANDER SAID ARMY'S ROLE IN SECURITY MATTERS WOULD PROBABLY INCREASE IN FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY, CONGEN, AND MISSION PERSONNEL WHO RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH ZURICH AND GENEVA AIRPORTS HAVE GENERALLY FOUND SECURITY PROCEDURES VERY THOROUGH. INDIVIDUAL PASSENGERS AND HAND LUGGAGE CAREFULLY SEARCHED. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TAKEN ON FLIGHTS TO MIDDLE EAST. ONLY EXCEPTION TO TIGHT SECURITY WAS EXPERIENCE OF ONE EMBOFF WHO WAS NOT SEARCHED BEFORE BOARDING ZURICH-PARIS SWISSAIR FLIGHT. PERCIVAL

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